to receive the engines at periodic intervals suiting the time frames we have laid down for flying a number of prototypes. The first engine will arrive within time for testing, certification and first flight trials.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The BTX engine is expected to successfully complete all the technical and qualification trials by mid-nineties. This engine will power the production version of LCA.

(d) The airframe for Light Combat Aircraft is being designed and developed indigenously. This airframe is so designed that it can take GEF-404 engine in the initial stage and later the indigenous GTX engine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Closing down of branches of Nationalised Banks in London

*44. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of certain Indian commercial banks have recently been closed down in London; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any plan of expansion of Indian public sector banks to open their branches abroad in next three years; if so, what are the locations for the same; and

(c) what is the present network of Indian Banks abroad and what are their working results at the end of 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A few branches of the Indian public sector banks in United Kingdom have been closed down in January-February, 1987 as a part of rationalisation and strengthening the operations of foreign branches of public sector banks.

No plan of expansion for opening of additional branches abroad by Indian public sector banks has been drawn up by Government and Reserve Bank of India.

As on 31-12-1986, 12 Indian public sector banks had 132 operating branches in 24 countries abroad. The public sector banks prepare their Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet in the forms set out in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Only the profit/loss position of the bank as a whole during the year is required to be incorporated in the Profit & Loss Account and the Balance Sheet. Banks do not separately indicate domestic profits and foreign profits. The total published profits of these 12 banks for the year 1986 were Rs.160.89 crores.

Women IAS Officers

*45. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a list of women I.A.S. officers who had served excellently as district collectors;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to promote such women officers to responsible posts such as Joint Secretary and above in the Government of India; and

(c) whether Government propose to scrap the system of promotion by percentage to the posts of Joint Secretary and above to benefit women IAS officers?